

Session 9 Networks and Core Sites

- The long term network requirements for 32 new-technology Core sites was presented; the realization that this will take a long time to materialize leads us to recognize that sub-Core sites will continue to play an essential role in space geodesy product development for the foreseeable future;
- The Russian Overseas Network is expanding with new SLR stations in Baikonur, Brasilia, and Havana (now in process) with other sites planned; newer technology equipment will improve daylight ranging and time transfer to GLONASS;
- The Chinese Network has moved to KHz ranging and SPADs; the last station, San Juan will be upgraded in 2015; a new SLR site is planned for Urumqi in 2015; a one-meter telescope is planned for both Changchun and Wuhan in the next couple of years; a 10 KHz laser system is under development and there are plans for development of a compact, low cost laser ranging system for geodesy;

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- The NGSLR prototype demonstrated all of its performance requirements and the NASA is incorporating the lessons learned into the design of the new operational stations. Deployment is being planned for core sites at McDonald and Hawaii; talks continue with other planned and potential partners;
- A program to benchmark the NASA SLR systems was outlined with emphasis on identifying and eliminating system biases;
- The NASA requirements for Core Sites was presented with focus on the complexities imposed by site layout conditions; this general definition may be of help to other groups that are embarking on the deployment of Core Sites;
- Construction has begun in the new Ny Alesund core site; the twin VLBI is planned for operation in the 2018 timeframe, discussions are underway on the approach for their SLR system to be operational by the end of the decade.